taxes.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Tax evasion cases in Dibrugarh and Ahmedabad

2667. SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Member (Investigation), Central Board of Direct Taxes has received information in May, 1991 regarding substantial tax evasion by certain parties at Dibrugarh (Assam) and Ahmedabad, substantial benami bank accounts at Dibrugarh involving transactions worth lakhs of rupees, illegal current account with the then United Industrial Bank Limited, Dibrugarh branch in collusion with both the branch manager and the accountant of the said bank involving withdrawal of several lakhs of rupees fraudulently from the said account etc;

(b) if so, the details thereof and what follow-up action has been taken in the matter so far;

(c) whether Government propose an independent enquiry by some senior officers other than those in the concerned Commissioneries in view of the wide influence of the involved tax evaders; if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the information as in (a) above were also handed over to the then Member (Investigation) in September, 1985 and no action was taken thereon; and

(e) if so, what steps Government propose to expedite the enquiry/investigations in the long pending informations as aforesaid?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) and (b) A petition dated May 27, 1991 containing details of information alleged to have been furnished earlier in respect of certain parties of Dibrugarh and Ahmedabad was received in the Central Board of Direct Taxes. A copy of the petition was sent to the concerned Chief Commissioner of Income-tax for ascertaining facts relating to the allegations against the persons named in the petition. The Enquiries have been conducted and they indicate that the aforesaid petition has been made as a result of family disputes over HUF properties by a member of the family itself.

(c) There is nothing to warrant investigation by any authority other than the concerned officers having jurisdiction over the matter.

(d) No such letter of September, 1985 appears to have been received.

(e) Since the reply to party (d) is in the negative, does not arise.

European Community strategy for Indian Development

2668. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE:
SHRI RAM NARESH YADAV:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the European Community has a special cooperation strategy for India for 1991-95 as per the news item entitled "EC Strategy for India's Development" which appeared in the Times of India, dated October 18, 1991;

(b) if so, what are the new development projects identified for EC financing in the country during 1991-95; and

(c) what are the existing projects under EC assistance the terms on which the same has been made available and how far it has been beneficial to the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) While a news item on the subject has appeared in the press, there has been no communication from the EC regarding any special cooperation strategy for India for 1991-95. It is, however understood that a proposal for development cooperation

strategy with Asian and Latin American countries is presently under consideration of the European Council.

(b) Development projects for EC financing have not been identified specifically for the period 1991-95. However, a pipeline of projects is maintained for obtaining EC's financial assistance under Development Cooperation Programme. The list of projects which have been approved for EC's financing for the year 1991 and of projects which are under consideration for obtaining EC's financing is enclosed as statement-I.

(c) The list of existing projects under EEC Development Cooperation assistance is at statement-II. EC's assistance under the Development Cooperation Programme is received as grant. EC's assistance has been beneficial.

Statement-I

Name of the project

1. Kerala Horticulture Development Programme
2. Kerala Minor Irrigation
3. Sidhmukh & Nohar Irrigation Project in Rajasthan
4. Coconut Rehabilitation in Kerala/ Karnataka and Tamil Nadu
5. Integrated Development of Agricultural Marketing in Tamil Nadu
6. Drinking Water Supply in Uddanam area in Srikakulam district of Andhra Pradesh
7. Water Supply Project for Problematic and ravinous area around Chambal in Rajasthan
8. Water Supply in the 132 Villages of desert areas of Jodhpur and Jaisalmer Districts in Rajasthan
9. Oil Seeds Development Programme
10. Construction of Elementary School Buildings
11. Semi-Intensive Prawn Hatchery
12. Hydrological & Eutrophication Studies of Lakes
13. Afforestation of Wastelands and Agroforestry in Haryana
14. Providing House Service Connections in Rural Water Supply Schemes in Himachal Pradesh
15. Rural Water Supply in Etawah District of Uttar Pradesh

Statement-II

Name of the Project

1. Cyclone Protection Shelters in Tamil Nadu Phase-II
2. Pilot Project for Village Trout Fish Farming in Jammu and Kashmir
3. Modernisation of Tank Irrigation Systems in Tamil Nadu
4. State Centres for Training for Rural Development
5. Coconut Development, Kerala
6. Development of Water Control System for Diversification of Crops in Maharashtra
7. Cooperative Rural Storage, Bihar
8. Sheep Development Project in Tamil Nadu
9. Tank Irrigation Systems, Phase-II, Tamil Nadu
10. Rehabilitation of common lands in Aravalli Hills, Haryana, India
11. Inland Fisheries Development
12. Strengthening of Veterinary Services for livestock Diseases Control
13. Rural Water Supply, Tamil Nadu
14. Saline Land Reclamation in Maharasthra
15. Minor Irrigation in Andhra Pradesh
16. Mustard Seed Development, Rajasthan
17. Integrated Watershed Management in Ravinous Area, U.P.
18. Integrated Watershed Management in Gujarat
19. Agricultural Markets in Kerala, India
20. South Bhagirathi-II, Integrated Watershed Management
21. Bhimtal Integrated Watershed Management
22. Alkaline Land Reclamation and Development Programme
23. Cyclone and Flood Protection Project, Orissa
24. Flood Protection Project, West Bengal

25. Uttar Pradesh & West Bengal Soil and Water Conservation
26. Cyclone Protection shelters, Andhra Pradesh, Ph. II
27. Cyclone Protection Shelters, Tamil Nadu, Ph. III
28. Hydrological computerised modelling system (SHE)
29. Operation Flood-III
30. Doon Valley Integrated Watershed Management Project
31. Intensive Grain Storage Project
32. Extension Services relating to Fertilizer use-Ph. I
33. Extension Services relating to Fertilizer use-Ph. II

Foreign Exchange spent on foreign tours

2669. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of Central and State Ministers who undertook foreign tours between January to October, 1991;

(b) the number of Central and State Officials who went on foreign tours during the same period; and

(c) the amount of foreign exchange spent on these trips?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SHANTARAM POTDUKHE): (a) to (c) The infromation is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Italian credit for promotion of Industrial Co-operation

2670. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to get Italian credit to promote industrial cooperation between the two countries; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) and (b) While there is no proposal for an umbrella agreement with Italy on industrial cooperation, Italian assistance has been sought for the following two projects:—

(i) National Small Industries Corporation's Prototype Development & Training Centre for Electronics at Hyderabad for which Italian Technical Assistance grant of Italian Lira 6.120 billion (Rs. 13 crores approx. at the exchange rate of Rs. 100 = It. Lira 4617) is being sought.

Italian assistance is being proposed for the basic engineering of the centre, equipment, training of instructors in Italy technical assistance for assembly and start up operations.

(ii) CAD-CAM Centre, Madras of the Min. of Industry for which Italian assistance of Italian Lira 13.5 billion (Rs. 29 Crores approx.) is being sought.

The Objectives of the project are to provide designing, construction and testing of sophisticated toolings, work pieces and equipments relevant to metal forging industry.

Setting up of Direct Tax Court

2671. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: SHRI SURESH KALMADI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proposal to set up a Direct Tax Court has been approved by Government;

(b) if so, by when such Court is likely to be set up; and

(c) whether there would be any need for the proposed Direct Tax Court at all in view of the simplified direct tax code, which the Government propose to introduce?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR):

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Setting up of National Tribunal of Direct Taxes and preparation of Direct Taxes Code are two mutually exclusive issues. The decision on setting up of